

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 505

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Edward H. Sapp.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to honor and memorialize those who have exemplified great service to their community, their country, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Judge Edward H. Sapp was an exemplary servant and consummate jurist who worked assiduously to uphold the United States and Tennessee constitutions so as to improve the quality of life of his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Edward H. Sapp, born in Pikeville on June 13, 1935, was the son of William J. and Dixie Martin Sapp; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sapp was grateful to share his life with his siblings: sisters, Frances Walker, Jeanelle Cunningham, Betty Griffin, and Joanne Turner, and brothers, James Sapp, Tom Sapp, Billy Sapp, and Marshall Sapp; and

WHEREAS, a 1953 graduate of Bledsoe County High School, Judge Sapp earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1957; he obtained his Juris Doctorate at Cumberland University Law School and graduated with honors in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Judge Edward Sapp then entered private practice, in which he earned the respect and admiration of his peers and clients alike by serving with acumen and alacrity as a partner in the law firm of Upchurch, Turner & Sapp beginning in 1969; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Judge Sapp became the Democratic nominee for Judge in Bledsoe County; his campaign was successful, and he diligently served the citizens of Bledsoe County in this capacity for two concurrent terms, until his untimely death in 1980; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Judge Edward Sapp was instrumental and progressive in working with federal, State, and local leaders to secure a new Bledsoe County High School building, a state prison, a nursing home, a health department, and the Ferro Manufacturing plant; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sapp was a tireless steward in service to all citizens of Bledsoe County; as both a county official and Bledsonian, he served with humility and compassion and heeded the call to ensure contemporary and future Bledsonians would have a better quality of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as set forth in our nation's Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as the chief executive officer of Bledsoe County government, Judge Sapp enjoyed fellowshiping with his peers in community service as a member of the Sequatchie Valley Development Agency, HRA, NRA, Bledsoe-Hospital Nursing Home Board, and the Southeast Tennessee Development District; and

WHEREAS, he was a practitioner of the Christian faith as a member of the First Baptist Church of Pikeville, which he attended for many years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Edward Sapp was blessed with the love and companionship of his wife, the former Marie Kirby; the two were united in holy matrimony in 1960 and enjoyed twenty years of marriage before his passing; and

WHEREAS, this couple's blessed union produced two children, Jeff Sapp, now deceased, and Bob (Genese) Sapp, as well as three grandchildren, Kayla Sapp, Jeffrey Sapp, and Brad (Cara Rains) Sapp; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sapp left behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, to confirm and bestow lasting honor upon Judge Sapp for such a legacy of commitment and accomplishments on behalf of promoting the general welfare of his fellow man,

the Bledsoe County Commission voted upon and confirmed unanimously a declaration officially naming the county courtroom the "Judge Edward E. Sapp Courtroom"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to remember the abundant life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the legacy of Judge Edward H. Sapp, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with valor and validity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.